## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

In Re: Levaquin Products

Liability Litigation File No. 08-md-1943

(JRT/AJB)

Minneapolis, Minnesota October 1, 2012

2:22 P.M.

BEFORE THE HONORABLE JOHN R. TUNHEIM UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE (STATUS CONFERENCE)

APPEARANCES

For the Plaintiffs: RONALD S. GOLDSER, ESQ.

GENEVIEVE ZIMMERMAN, ESQ.

CHARLES JOHNSON, ESQ.

STACY HAUER, ESQ. CAIA JOHNSON, ESQ. SUSAN BIENIEK, ESQ.

PETER KRIESER, ESQ.

LEWIS J. SAUL, ESQ. Via Telephone:

KEVIN FITZGERALD, ESQ.

ED COLEMAN, ESQ. ERIC TERRY, ESQ.

KRISTIAN RASMUSSEN, ESQ.

TIM MALONEY, ESQ. WILLIAM BROSS, ESQ. TINA OLSON, ESQ.

For the Defendants: JOHN WINTER, ESQ.

TRACY J. VAN STEENBURGH, ESQ.

Via Telephone: JAMES IRWIN, ESQ.

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> KRISTINE MOUSSEAU, CRR-RPR (612) 664-5106

1	2:22 P.M.
2	
3	(In open court.)
4	THE COURT: You may be seated. All right. Good
5	afternoon, everyone.
6	All right. Let's get started here. It's Multi
7	District Litigation Number 08-1943, In Re: Levaquin
8	Products Liability Litigation. We're going to go through
9	attorney appearances first in the courtroom and first for
10	the plaintiffs' attorneys, please.
11	MR. GOLDSER: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Ron
12	Goldser for plaintiffs.
13	MS. GENEVIEVE ZIMMERMAN: Good afternoon.
14	Genevieve Zimmerman for plaintiffs.
15	MR. KRIESER: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Peter
16	Krieser, and I'm an attorney admitted to practice before
17	this Court, but I'm also a plaintiff.
18	THE COURT: Very well.
19	MR. BINSTOCK: Susan Bieniek representing Peter
20	Krieser.
21	MR. JOHNSON: Charles Johnson representing
22	plaintiffs.
23	MS. HAUER: Stacy Hauer representing plaintiffs.
24	MS. JOHNSON: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Caia
25	Johnson representing plaintiffs.

- 1 THE COURT: All right. Now, for the defendants
- 2 in the courtroom?
- 3 MS. VAN STEENBURGH: Good afternoon. Tracy
- 4 Van Steenburgh on behalf of the defense.
- 5 MR. WINTER: Good afternoon, Your Honor. John
- 6 Winter representing defendants.
- 7 THE COURT: Let's go to those on the phone now.
- 8 Go ahead.
- 9 MR. SAUL: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Lewis
- 10 Saul for the plaintiffs steering committee. We couldn't
- 11 hear what was being said in the courtroom. I don't know if
- that will change as we move forward.
- 13 THE COURT: It will when we make sure people are
- in front of microphones, Mr. Saul.
- MR. SAUL: Thank you.
- 16 THE COURT: Sorry about that.
- MR. FITZGERALD: Good afternoon, Your Honor.
- 18 Kevin Fitzgerald for the plaintiffs and PSC.
- MR. RASMUSSEN: Good afternoon, Your Honor.
- 20 Kristian Rasmussen for plaintiffs.
- 21 MR. TERRY: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Eric
- 22 Terry for plaintiffs.
- MR. MALONEY: Your Honor, Tim Maloney for
- 24 plaintiffs.
- MR. BROSS: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Bill

- 1 Bross for plaintiffs. 2 THE COURT: Okay. Do we have, and then 3 representing any other plaintiffs' attorneys on the phone? 4 All right. How about defendants' attorneys? 5 MR. IRWIN: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Jim 6 Irwin. 7 THE COURT: All right. Very well. Thank you, 8 everyone. 9 We'll make sure we speak into the microphones, so 10 those of you on the phone can hear, and it's helpful for us 11 here because we occasionally get some feedback if you just 12 put your phone on mute, and then if you're going to talk, 13 you can press it off and then speak, and we will give you, 14 if you're on the phone, an opportunity to speak whenever 15 you wish. 16 Just tell us you wish to say something, but in 17 the meantime if you keep it on mute, then things will work 18 better here in the courtroom. 19 So Mr. Goldser? 20 MR. GOLDSER: Thank you, Your Honor. The agenda, 21 of course, has been filed. There is one significant item 22 that is not listed on the agenda that I would like to take
- of course, has been filed. There is one significant item
  that is not listed on the agenda that I would like to take
  up first, and that is the subject of settlement. We're
  going to do things a little bit out of order today based on
  my conversations with Ms. Van Steenburgh.

1 I'm going to tell you a little bit about the 2 current status of settlement and talk about one of the 3 settlement related issues. 4 Ms. Van Steenburgh has for you a presentation on 5 the number of pending cases and various categories into 6 which they fall so that you know what the landscape looks 7 like, and then there will be some discussion about 8 litigation issues, what cases remain for litigation, whose 9 they are, and how we go forward with them. 10 Most of the agenda items that you will see are 11 repeats from prior status conferences, so I'm sure there 12 will be updates on those. I know Ms. Van Steenburgh will 13 want to speak to some. I anticipate Mr. Saul will want to 14 speak to some. 15 As I think the Court has become aware from 16 discussions with Chief Magistrate Judge Boylan, there were 17 further settlement discussions last week. We have been 18 focusing on the cases of six law firms. All but 19 Mr. Binstock are either here today or represented on the 20 phone. 21 A tentative agreement has been reached, and it is 22 in the current -- currently in the process of being 23 drafted. We hope to see that draft in short order. So we 24 think that we have resolved the inventories of those six 25 firms.

1	I know from speaking with Mr. Winter and also
2	from e-mails that I have received from many counsel with
3	cases in the MDL, there is interest in exploring settlement
4	on the part of many cases, but I don't believe that all
5	cases have yet reached the stage of being interested in
6	discussing settlement, that there are some that will still
7	want to go forward with litigation.
8	I think Ms. Van Steenburgh can give you a better
9	handle than I can on what those cases are, which brings me
10	to the subject of amended pretrial number 3 and the
11	assessment question. I think you're also aware that this
12	has been presented to former liaison counsel in New Jersey,
13	Mike London and Rick Meadow.
14	They have settled their cases, as you know, and
15	they have since been relieved of their duties as liaison,
16	but because they're the ones with the only existing
17	settlement agreement in hand, they're still shepherding the
18	question of settlement through in New Jersey.
19	We think that there is a tentative agreement
20	reached on a set of core issues with regard to the
21	assessment question. Mr. London and Mr. Meadow are
22	currently querying New Jersey counsel to see if it is
23	acceptable to them. If it is, the idea is that there would
24	be simultaneous orders entered both here and in New Jersey
25	addressing this issue so that the courts, state and federal

1 courts, don't have to confront the question of 2 jurisdiction, you know, who has got jurisdiction over what 3 case. 4 So hopefully we will have, if not identical, 5 equivalent orders so that the jurisdiction issue will 6 become moot. 7 THE COURT: You said that that's being reviewed now with other plaintiffs' counsel in New Jersey. Is there 8 9 any kind of a deadline here, or what's the anticipated time 10 line? 11 MR. GOLDSER: Yes. The original deadline for 12 briefing was September 27th, and they have requested a 13 three-week extension. I don't know what that date is off 14 the top of my head, but that would be our deadline. 15 I spoke with Mr. Winter outside before we started 16 today, and he advises that the agreement in New Jersey has 17 just been signed, that money will not transfer hands for 60 18 days, so that there doesn't seem to be an exchange of money 19 imminently due and that we can present to the Court an 20 agreement, hopefully within the three-week period. 21 If for any reason that agreement is not reached 22 and money is about to change hands, either with the New 23 Jersey folks or anyone else, and I don't believe there is 24 anyone ahead of the curve from New Jersey, Mr. Winter tells

me that he will advise us and the Court two weeks prior to

- 1 the transfer of any money so that in the event we don't
- 2 have an order, we can be sure that the Court will enter
- 3 some kind of order, an interim order, perhaps, or whatever
- 4 is necessary at the time to ensure that we don't have any
- 5 issues that arise from the transfer of money.
- I saw Mr. Winter shaking his head yes, and I
- 7 would just like to have of him confirm that is true on the
- 8 record.
- 9 MR. WINTER: Your Honor, we said that last time
- we were here, and we'll say it again.
- 11 THE COURT: Very well.
- 12 MR. GOLDSER: So I believe that concludes what I
- would like to present unless the Court has some question
- 14 about those issues, and I will turn it over to
- 15 Ms. Van Steenburgh to talk about case numbers.
- 16 THE COURT: I may have some more as we go on, but
- 17 let's hear from Ms. Van Steenburgh.
- MS. VAN STEENBURGH: Thank you. Good afternoon,
- 19 Your Honor. The resolution of the cases last week has
- 20 affected the case count, that and also the Court's order on
- 21 severance of the multi plaintiff complaints. So I prepared
- 22 a Power Point that I think if we march through this you can
- see how it's going to change the configuration of the
- 24 cases. Let me get this set up.
- 25 What we have done, Your Honor, is we have taken

1 all of the cases, and we have looked at the number of cases 2 that are currently filed, and that's a little different 3 than sometimes Mr. Essig has given the number of cases 4 served, but because a fair number of cases were re-filed 5 after your order on the severance of the multi plaintiff 6 cases, we took the number of filed cases because it will be 7 easier when the numbers all work together. 8 The number of plaintiffs currently are 2,254, and 9 that was the result of the multi plaintiff complaints. So 10 with the effect of the case resolution, and what I'm going 11 to do, I think the easiest way to go about this is show 12 what happens with the resolution, show what happens with the order on the severance. 13 14 And then we will be left with three buckets: 15 Minnesota cases, the forum non conveniens cases and the 16 cases that will be subject to remand, and we can look at 17 each one of those and see how many cases are left in each 18 of those categories. I think it will be helpful to the 19 Court to know kind of where each of those cases or where 20 those lie. 21 At any rate, with the case count down from the 22 resolution, that reduced the number of cases by 845. 23 number of plaintiffs have come down in that amount. That's 24 a 45 percent decrease in the number of cases in plaintiffs.

The order on the severance didn't affect the number of

- 1 cases. 2 What it has done, really, is affect the number of 3 plaintiffs, and what we had happen, and if I can give you a 4 little bit of detail on the next page. These were all of 5 the cases by case name that housed either 89, you know, 90 6 plaintiffs, a few had two or three, but those were all of 7 the multi plaintiff cases, and the original number of 8 plaintiffs, there were 483. 9 The ones that have not been re-filed now add up 10 to 356. I have an asterisk there because there are a 11 couple of firms that could file yet today a few more. We 12 doubt that they will, but this was the cut-off day, the 13 last day, and what we have left are complaints that have 14 been re-filed are 127. 15 So that includes the original named plaintiff 16 plus the re-filed ones. So you'll see that by virtue of 17 your order, over 350 cases will automatically be dismissed 18 from the MDL. So when you put that together, resolution 19 plus the order, the case count is 1,036 cases and 1053 20 plaintiffs. 21 The difference between those actually lies in 22 something that happened at the very beginning before there 23 was an MDL. That is, there were a few lawsuits filed by I 24 believe Mr. Saul's office that contained multiple
  - KRISTINE MOUSSEAU, CRR-RPR (612) 664-5106

plaintiffs, and I'm not sure anything has been done with

- 1 those, so there are a few that make up the difference that 2 are still outlying, but otherwise, the numbers are much 3 closer. 4 What that leaves us with are three categories, 5 and the first category are those Minnesota 6 resident/Minnesota filed cases. We have now gone down by 7 virtue of the resolution from 32 cases that we were 8 starting to commence discovery on down to 10, and there are 9 also only four law firms that are involved now at this 10 point. 11 Six of the cases are represented by the Lewis 12 Saul & Associates Law Firm, and Mr. Saul, I know you don't have this in front of you, but I think you would probably 13 14 concur that it's Sharon Johnson, Edward Karkoska, Richard 15 Kirkes, Darlene Melland, Douglas Olson and Robert 16 Reichgeld. Of those, Your Honor, I will talk a little bit 17 18 more about where we are in discovery in a short while, but 19 this just kind of summarizes here. Johnson Becker has two 20 current Minnesota cases that are set to go to trial in 21 March. We are talking with them as a, about a possible 22 resolution, so that has an asterisk next to it. 23 Also, there is one Solbert Stewart case, and
  - Also, there is one Solbert Stewart case, and again, we are talking with that firm about a resolution of that firm and another one, so again an asterisk, and the

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- last one is Mr. Krieser's case, and he is here today, and
- 2 his case is a Minnesota resident/Minnesota filed case.
- 3 With respect to, just to give you an idea as to
- 4 where we are on discovery in all those cases, the next
- 5 slide shows. I have contacted Mr. Saul and Mr. Fitzgerald
- 6 to ask for updated depositions of those plaintiffs who were
- 7 actually in Phase I.
- As you recall, there were some plaintiffs from a
- 9 while back, and that would include Johnson, Karkoska and
- 10 Olson. We have one deposition in the Olson case left to
- 11 take. We believe we will be ready to move for summary
- judgment by the November deadline in that case.
- Mr. Kirkes, as I understand it, is still
- impaired, and I don't know what the status of his health
- is. The Melland and Reichgeld cases are new cases in the
- 16 sense that they had not -- there had not been previous
- discovery in those cases.
- We have gotten a PFS. Authorizations are out.
- 19 We are collecting medical records, and we will be able to
- 20 work those cases up in time for a March trial date, so all
- of the Lewis Saul cases would be ready.
- 22 Mr. Krieser's case, we're getting going on that
- case. We've gotten a PFS. We have gotten authorizations
- and information from him, and we will pursue that as well,
- and that will be ready to go in March as well. So of the

1 cases left, these are the cases that would be subject to 2 discovery and would be set for that March 2013 trial date. 3 THE COURT: This is excluding the ones that there 4 are some discussions going on? 5 MS. VAN STEENBURGH: Yes. That would be 6 excluding the three cases for which there is discussion, 7 and if that discussion doesn't come to fruition in the next week or so, we will put those cases back on and finish the 8 9 discovery in those cases as well. 10 The next category are the forum non conveniens 11 cases, and as the Court knows, we have a fair number of 12 those. Currently, the total number of cases is 1490, and 13 that includes those cases that were re-filed after the 14 severance order, and it excludes the ones that will be 15 dropped out. 16 What we forecast, however, because of the 17 resolution of many of the cases is that number of cases 18 will drop down to 774. There have been so many cases 19 resolved in connection with the six law firm resolution 20 that this number will drop quite a bit because so many of 21 them involved plaintiffs who were from other jurisdictions. 22 Of the remaining cases, over 500 of them are 23 represented by two law firms. So we have a fair number 24 involving just two law firms, one of which I believe has 25 over 400 and the other has 160 some. So that makes up the

- 1 bulk of the forum non conveniens cases that we would say 2 are subject to transfer under 1404. 3 With respect to those that are, were transferred 4 into this MDL, the total number was 356, and again, we're 5 forecasting that number to go down to 237 as a result of 6 the resolution of the cases last week. 7 So there will be fewer cases on remand, and 8 again, I believe, let me look at my notes here, on remand 9 there are approximately three firms that have 109 of those 10 cases, and then there are some hit or miss cases that make 11 up the rest. 12 I should back up for a minute. On the forum non cases, as I mentioned, over 500 are two firms, and then 110 13 14 remaining cases are collectively represented by five firms. 15 So many of those cases either in the forum non conveniens 16 category and also the remand are represented by very, very 17 few law firms at this point. 18 One other thing that the Court had been 19 interested in and we had pushed with respect to discovery 20 is the status of the plaintiff fact sheets, and I wanted to 21 give the Court the report on what was going on with those
- in the second deficiency mode. 119 have been sent out.

  The number that actually are outstanding now given the case resolution is 67.
- We believe there will be another 59 that will be

1 sent out by the end of the year given the pace at which 2 we're not getting the response PFSs. So if you combine 3 those two lower numbers, that is how many will be out by 4 the end of the year in terms of second notices that we will 5 be sending out on those cases for purposes of dismissal or 6 not, depending on what the Court does with its order. 7 So I just wanted to at least let the Court know 8 that things are coming down. Some of the categories have 9 larger numbers, but with the resolution, a fair number of 10 cases, over 800, will have been resolved, and so that will lower the total number. 11 12 THE COURT: For the law firms that have not, their clients have not settled, are there discussions 13 14 planned, or is that not in the cards for the near future? 15 MS. VAN STEENBURGH: For a couple of the law 16 firms there have been some intimation that there may be 17 settlement. At least one of the law firms, there hasn't 18 been anything of late in terms of settlement. 19 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. 20 MS. VAN STEENBURGH: Mm-hmm. MR. GOLDSER: Well, Your Honor, I'm not sure 21 22 where we go from here. It may well be that we have covered 23 most things that we need to take up today. In terms of 24 your last question, I know that we had informed the MDL plaintiffs' bar about the existence of the settlement, the 25

1 tentative settlement agreement that has been reached so 2 that they would hear about it from us first before hearing 3 about it today, and many have responded to me saying 4 they're interested in beginning conversations. 5 Many of those are one and two and three 6 plaintiffs firms, not surprisingly. I know many such firms 7 have reached out directly to Ms. Van Steenburgh or 8 alternatively Susan Sharko in New Jersey because some of 9 the cases are in New Jersey as well. 10 So it's really hard to know which firms' cases are not in discussion or about to be in discussion as we 11 12 sit here, other than certainly clearly the Minnesota 13 resident/Minnesota filed cases of Mr. Saul's and 14 Mr. Krieser, those seem to have current life for 15 litigation. 16 But where we go with remand or 1404 issues really 17 turns an awful lot on where ongoing discussions, settlement 18 discussions, go. So, you know, I'm not sure how much 19 activity we want to undertake on that in the next 30 or 60 20 days until some of the dust settles and we see who is 21 interested, who is not interested, who we can get resolved, 22 who we can't get resolved in that time frame. 23 But I certainly know that those firms that want 24 to continue on with the litigation ought to have their day 25 in court, ought to follow through with the deadlines that

- 1 were set at the last status conference.
- 2 Given that Mr. Saul and Mr. Krieser and
- 3 Ms. Bieniek are here, if there are questions or concerns
- 4 about those deadlines and what's going to happen next, I
- 5 would like to leave the floor open for them to raise any
- 6 questions or Ms. Van Steenburgh to follow up on any
- 7 deadline issues that exist.
- Otherwise, I feel like I've concluded what I need
- 9 to present to the Court from my perspective, but I
- 10 certainly leave it open to them to discuss with you
- 11 whatever they need.
- 12 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Saul, do you have
- 13 anything to raise?
- 14 MR. SAUL: I don't at this time. Maybe
- Mr. Fitzgerald who is here with me does.
- 16 MR. FITZGERALD: Your Honor, we do have six of
- 17 the Minnesota resident/Minnesota filed cases. Mr. Kirkes
- has passed away, and I expect that that case will likely be
- dismissed, and a couple of the other cases will also likely
- 20 be dismissed.
- 21 We're in the process of speaking with the
- 22 families about the status of litigation and the discovery
- that needs to be done in these individual cases moving
- forward, so we may have some updates for the Court at the
- 25 next status conference about our six cases, but I would

- 1 expect that that number will get whittled down even further 2 moving forward. 3 THE COURT: Mr. Winter, do you have something? 4 MR. WINTER: Yes, Your Honor. 5 Ms. Van Steenburgh pointed out, the Minnesota cases are the 6 Minnesota cases which we're going to have to deal with. 7 THE COURT: Right. MR. WINTER: But in the two buckets of either 8 9 remand or forum non conveniens, those need to be addressed, 10 and when Ms. Van Steenburgh said 500 plus of the 700 forum 11 non conveniens are with two firms, those two firms are 12 Mr. Saul's firm and the Carey firm. You know, we have been very frank with certain 13 14 law firms. If you want to resolve your cases, we will 15 resolve your cases. Those two law firms, Judge, are not in 16 that category. So I think we do need to address that issue 17 18 because from our perspective our goal is to have six months 19 from now to have whatever cases you have left here in 20 Minnesota, but everything else have been addressed and 21 dealt with however you decide to deal with them, and I 22 think that is, you know, an efficient way to do this. 23 This MDL will be less than five years old. There
  - were a lot of cases, and I think that should be all of our goals. So what we would like to do is have those two law

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- firms, Carey and Saul, respond as we have suggested.
- 2 Either you consent to the remand, or we have to litigate
- 3 forum non conveniens.
- 4 Whether they want to tell us that in two weeks or
- 5 30 days, that's Your Honor's prerogative, obviously, but I
- 6 think we need that type of deadline. Then on remand, close
- 7 to half of the cases to be remanded are mostly with those
- 8 firms.
- And, you know, we can figure out the process, but
- 10 that should be something where within 90 days, just to pick
- 11 a date, we should be starting to remand to be able to do
- 12 this so that you have whatever you have left after the next
- 13 trial.
- 14 THE COURT: All right. Anyone else?
- MS. BIENIEK: Susan Bieniek with regard to Peter
- 16 Krieser's case in Minnesota.
- 17 THE COURT: All right. Why don't you come on up
- 18 to the lectern, if you would.
- MS. BIENIEK: We have just done the plaintiff
- fact statement, and we haven't had a chance yet to talk
- 21 with Ms. Van Steenburgh regarding potential settlement. So
- we are at that phase, just so the Court is aware.
- THE COURT: Okay. All right. Thank you.
- 24 So in terms of choosing cases for March for the
- 25 trial date that the Court had set, and obviously, there are

- 1 some cases remaining that fall within the category that we 2 had identified. Was it seven, or is it ten? I'm not sure. 3 MS. VAN STEENBURGH: Ten. 4 THE COURT: Ten that are proceeding for 5 discovery. What is the date we should shoot for for 6 deciding which case or cases will be on tap for March? 7 Mr. Winter? MR. WINTER: I would say sometime between the 8 9 next 45 and 60 days, Your Honor. I think we should be 10 early December at the latest having picked whatever we're 11 going to pick so that we could complete whatever discovery 12 is needed to be done in terms of experts and have everything on schedule for that March date. 13 14 THE COURT: Will we know what we need to know 15 about each of those plaintiffs by early December? Anyone 16 can answer that. MR. FITZGERALD: Your Honor, this is Kevin 17 18 Fitzgerald. I thought and recalled at the last status 19 conference that we had talked about a date in early January 20 for, as far as case selection for the March trial, and we 21 were, we were moving forward under the impression that that 22 was the time frame that we were, you know, working under. 23 THE COURT: That time frame is fine with the
- 23 THE COURT: That time frame is fine with the
  24 Court. I just want to make sure that there is enough time,
  25 both to adequately assess these potential plaintiffs' cases

- on the part of the plaintiffs and the defense as well, and
- 2 so the Court can have a little time to decide which one or
- 3 ones to go forward with.
- So we had probably set a date in the first week
- 5 in January for either the parties to agree or for the Court
- 6 to have a selection and some description of the cases so
- 7 that I can decide how to proceed.
- MR. GOLDSER: At the last status conference, Your
- 9 Honor, the minutes reflect that you entered a summary
- judgment motion deadline of November 26th, and it says, the
- 11 Court also anticipates deciding by January 1 which case or
- 12 cases will be tried on March 5th.
- 13 THE COURT: Well, if we can have whatever in by
- January 2nd, and then the Court will decide shortly
- thereafter, and then we'll have the March lineup set then.
- 16 Is that all right? January 2nd, Mr. Fitzgerald, okay with
- 17 you?
- 18 MR. FITZGERALD: That is fine with us, Your
- 19 Honor.
- THE COURT: All right. Sounds good.
- Okay. And as to the remand and forum non
- 22 conveniens issue, at some point in time, if there are not
- further resolutions, we're going to have to address that.
- I think that Mr. Goldser's suggestion of letting the dust
- settle a little bit is probably good, but at some point in

- 1 time, we're going to need to move toward addressing those
- 2 issues.
- 3 Perhaps we should just set another status
- 4 conference in about a month, and we will be in a better
- 5 position to set deadlines for that particular issue to be
- 6 teed up and resolved.
- 7 Does that sound okay?
- 8 MR. SAUL: That's okay, Judge. This is Lewis
- 9 Saul.
- 10 MR. WINTER: That's fine.
- 11 MR. SAUL: But the forum non conveniens issue has
- 12 been fully briefed for Your Honor.
- 13 THE COURT: Right. I do think before we spend a
- 14 significant amount of time there, we will see what happens
- over the next three to four weeks, but then the Court would
- 16 be prepared to take that up at that point in time, and if
- there is any argument, we can have that at the next status
- 18 conference.
- 19 All right? Other issues we should be talking
- about today?
- Mr. Goldser, any more issues on your list there?
- MR. GOLDSER: Nothing that I have, Your Honor.
- THE COURT: Okay.
- 24 MS. VAN STEENBURGH: Nothing here, Your Honor.
- 25 THE COURT: Mr. Saul or Mr. Fitzgerald?

- 1 MR. SAUL: Nothing, Your Honor. Thank you.
- MR. FITZGERALD: No, Your Honor.
- 3 THE COURT: How about any of the rest of you that
- 4 are either on the phone or here?
- 5 Okay. Well, let's set a time for a status
- 6 conference then. We could do it either during the week of
- 7 the 29th of October or the week of November 5th. Is one
- 8 better than the other?
- 9 MS. VAN STEENBURGH: I would personally prefer
- 10 the week of the 29th. I have to be out of town the
- 11 following week.
- 12 THE COURT: After submitting an absentee ballot,
- 13 I'm sure.
- MS. VAN STEENBURGH: This is true.
- MR. SAUL: We were going to suggest November 5th.
- I have to be out of town the week before.
- 17 THE COURT: The entire week, Mr. Saul?
- 18 MR. SAUL: No. I think it's Wednesday, Thursday
- 19 and Friday.
- THE COURT: How about Tuesday, the 30th of
- October, would that work?
- 22 MR. SAUL: I think that would work.
- 23 THE COURT: All right. Okay. Let's set it for
- 24 Tuesday the 30th of October. Let's see. How about 2:30
- 25 that day? Does that sound okay?

1	MS. VAN STEENBURGH: That works, Your Honor.
2	THE COURT: Will that work with travel, Mr. Saul?
3	MR. SAUL: Yes.
4	THE COURT: All right. Let's set it for 2:30 on
5	Tuesday, the 30th of October, and I think we will be in a
6	position to be able to move forward at that point in time
7	and have a little bit more knowledge about what is going
8	on, so all right.
9	Anything else for today?
10	MR. GOLDSER: Nothing, Your Honor.
11	MS. VAN STEENBURGH: No, Your Honor. Thank you.
12	THE COURT: Anything from anyone on the phone?
13	All right. Thank you, everybody. We will be in
14	recess and will be continued until the next hearing that
15	will be set in about a month. So we'll see you all. Thank
16	you.
17	MR. GOLDSER: Thank you.
18	MR. WINTER: Thank you, Your Honor.
19	MR. FITZGERALD: Thank you, Your Honor.
20	THE CLERK: All rise.
21	* * *
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Τ	
2	I, Kristine Mousseau, certify that the foregoing
3	is a correct transcript from the record of proceedings in
4	the above-entitled matter.
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8	Certified by: s/ Kristine Mousseau, CRR-RPR
9	Kristine Mousseau, CRR-RPR
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